1964

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EASTERN DEPARTMENT

GENERAL

E 1073/107

FROM John Reid, Esq
Tel Aviv —
W. Morris Esq

CONFIDENTIAL

No. 1071/64

Dated April 9

Received April 16

SUBJECT:

Comments on the proposed visit to London of the Arab Foreign Ministers.

References

-/87
-/88
ER 1071/9

MINUTES

See Mr. Morris' letter of April 17 to Sir D. Riches at —/95.

JGL 29/4

(Printing Instructions)

(Outward Action)

(Action completed)	(Main Indexed)
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RECEIVED IN
No 15
APR 1964
E1073/107

BRITISH EMBASSY

TEL AVIV

April 9, 1964

E1073/87

Dear Willie,

ER1071/9

I must send you a short comment on Derek Riches' letter of March 20 about the proposed visits of Arab Foreign Ministers to London. But I will do my best not to add unnecessarily to the inevitable argument between Tel Aviv and our Arab missions on the way in which to handle the Arab drive against Israel.

E1073/88?

2. I would only say that I cannot agree with the conclusions in paragraph 5 of Riches' letter for the reasons which have already been explained in my letter to you of March 25 (1031/64) about "guarantees". I do not myself think that you will wish to depart from the line indicated in paragraph 6 of your letter to Harold Beeley of March 10, which seems to us to cover adequately the Jordan waters issue. As for the general issue of mounting Arab hostility to Israel, I would personally hope that the visits of these Arab Ministers to London would give us a good opportunity to speak to them confidentially in something like the language used by Mr. Heath last September, (paragraph 5 of my letter of March 25). We should presumably leave the Arabs in no doubt that we, like other Western countries, continue strongly opposed to the use or the threat of force in the area, as stated by Mr. Macmillan last May. It would only confuse them if they were allowed to think that we might be detached, in some way, from the general Western opinion on this point and it might conceivably encourage them to foolish action.

3. There are of course wider aspects of the question, particularly the value of Anglo-American cooperation in the area, which will no doubt weigh with us.

4. I am sending copies of this letter to Amman, Baghdad, Beirut, Damascus, Jerusalem, Khartoum, Kuwait, Tripoli, Benghazi, Algiers, Tunis, Rabat, Paris, Washington, United Kingdom Mission New York and Jedda.

Yours ever
John

(John Beith)

W. Morris, Esq., C.M.G.,
Foreign Office.

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